



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE

QM22/0305

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	TOTAL CLAIMS	EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT	DATE MAILED
09/322,914	06/01/99	022	ASHBURN, S	3713 03/05/01
First Named Applicant	RIDER,	35 USC 154(b) term ext. = 0 Days.		

TITLE OF INVENTION MOTION PICTURE THEATER INTERACTIVE GAMING SYSTEM

ATTY'S DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	FEE DUE	DATE DUE
3 8556-006	463-031.000	C95	UTILITY	YES	\$620.00	06/05/01

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.**

**THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.**

**HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:**

**I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.**

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
- B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.**

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE COPY

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/322,914

Examiner

Steven L Ashburn

Applicant(s)

RIDER ET AL.

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/13/01.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are acceptable as formal drawings.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.
5. ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE FOR SUBMITTING NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS, OR A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION. This three-month period for complying with the REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL is extendable under 37 CFR 1.136(a).**

6. ☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.
7. ☒ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS  
(a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review( PTO-948) attached  
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☒ to Paper No. 5.  
(b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the examiner.  
(c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

8. ☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any reply to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE / SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1 ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
3 ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
5 ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
7 ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- 2 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
4 ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
6 ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment  
8 ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  
9 ☐ Other

Title changed to "Motion Picture Theater Interactive Gaming System" -A

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### **PROSECUTION HISTORY**

1. The original filing of this application was made on 01 June 1999 comprising 14 claims (1-14). Preliminary Amendment A was submitted on 01 June 2000 adding claims 15-22. The examiners first office action rejecting claims 1-22 was mailed to the applicant's on 13 November 2000. In response to the office action, the applicants requested a personal interview with the examiner on 06 February 2001. In accordance with the discussions of the interview, the applicant submitted Amendment B on 13 February 2001. In consideration of the applicant's persuasive arguments, the examiner finds the application in condition for allowance.

### **ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

2. Claims 1-22 are allowable. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims, as amended, describe an interactive video gaming system maintained in a motion picture screening room with a plurality of user stations in view of the motion picture screen. The theater seats have manual input devices for receiving game control commands from players and transmitting them to a host computer. These aspects are not disclosed by the prior art view individually or together.

The scope of the amended claims is limited such that it is no longer appropriate to apply the patent to Chaum as prior art. Chaum discloses a motion picture copy protection system that also provides interactive games. This reference was relied on to teach the use of a motion picture screening room to play interactive games when a movie was not shown. These games comprise simple lottery or bingo games. A camera mounted behind the movie

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screen to detect audience signals provides interactivity. In comparison, the invention claims a network of peripheral devices (e.g. joysticks) transmitting player commands to a central computer. Chaum does not suggest a system to support the claimed level of interactivity.

#### CONCLUSION

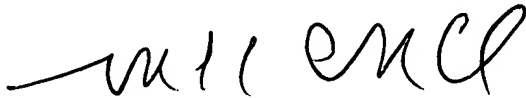
3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven L Ashburn whose telephone number is 703 305 3543. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Valencia Martin-Wallace can be reached on 703 308 1148. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 305 3590 for regular communications and 703 308 3579 for After Final communications.

5. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308 1078.



Steven Ashburn  
March 1, 2001



**MICHAEL O'NEILL**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**